

MITES THAT SIZZLE, SLOSH AND GO BUMP IN THE DARK:
EXPLOITATION OF STRESS HABITATS BY ACARI IN THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

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The acarine fauna of the Hawaiian Islands is a combination of endemic and introduced elements. Frequently it is difficult, if not impossible, to know if a mite is actually endemic or merely an undescribed introduced species, due primarily to the incomplete state of acarine taxonomy. In several instances, endemism may be determined with reasonable certainty. These are in the stress habitats of fumaroles, lava tubes and streams. In these instances there are existent surface populations which appear to be closely related to the species inhabiting these stress habitats. Slides will be presented showing the diverse morphologic adaptations allowing these mites to exploit these varied habitats.